



Community Development Activity (CDA)

Quarterly Report

October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

USAID Cooperative Agreement No.: 112-A-00-05-00058-00

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Acronyms.....	2
Executive Summary	2
Introduction	3
1 Community Mobilization.....	4
2 Project Prioritization	5
3 Capacity Building of CDCs/CBOs.....	8
4 Local Government Participation	9
5 Intercommunity Cooperation	11
6 Performance Indicators	12
7 Administration Issues / Other	13
8 Success Stories.....	14

Acronyms

CDA	Community Development Activity
CDC	Community Development Councils
ExCom	Executive Committee
EOI	Expression of Interest
POC	Program Operation Center
LCEP	Local Community Economic Plans
LEG	Local Economic Growth

Executive Summary

This report covers a dynamic and fast paced period during which CHF dedicated time and focus to start-up activities. These activities included initializing community mobilization and program operations, as well as hiring staff, locating office space, and setting up financial and human resource systems. In October, CHF staff were immediately mobilized to implement start up activities in Baku and the three regions where we are realizing the CDA program.

During this reporting period, CHF worked closely with the USAID Mission as we successfully conducted our CDA “Rapid Start” in 24 communities in the three regions. The Mission was instrumental in facilitating important meetings with regional Executive Committee (ExCom) representatives, as three teams of CHF community mobilizers spread out to each region to commence the community mobilization and outreach process.

CHF established a Program Operation Center (POC) in Guba with our local implementing partner, UMID. UMID's extensive experience in the Guba region was fully utilized through the “Rapid Start” methodology in meeting with local government representatives, advertising community-wide meetings to facilitate the democratic election of Community Development Councils (CDC), identifying initial projects, opening a field office, and hiring staff in the northeast region.

During the October 1 through December 31 reporting period, CHF successfully established 24 democratically elected Community Development Councils (CDC), and identified a high priority “quick-impact” project in each community. Mobilization and training will continue in the 24 communities as we progress through the technical preparation, environmental assessment, tender, implementation of the quick-impact, Local Economic Growth (LEG) projects, and build a trusting, transparent and cooperative partnership among the CDA program, the communities and the local government.

CHF is pleased to present the following Quarterly Performance report on the Community Development Activity program.

Introduction

This report is organized to emphasize how CHF International's results in the CDA program feed into USAID's intermediate results and strategic objective. The framework is illustrated at the beginning of each intermediate result, and sub results are defined throughout this report. Tracking programmatic progress through this framework assures that incremental objectives serve to meet overall program objectives, and allows for adjusting the program, as well as reporting, as the program evolves.

GOALS IN QUARTER 1	PLANNED	ACCOMPLISHED
Number of CDC's Formed	24	24
Community Priority Projects Identified/Initiated	24	24
# of Citizens involved in Mobilization	2000	2200
# of Local Govt Reps Involved in Mobilization	24	58
Percent of Woman Elected to CDC	25%	39%
Percent of Youth Elected to CDC	10	17%
Expected Community Contribution	25%	31%

Under the USAID Strategic Objective: *More Representative, Participatory And Better Functioning Democracy*, the goals of the Community Development Activity Program are:

- Stimulate communities to **engage in participatory, community-wide planning and leverage resources and support** from government, the private sector, and other empowered communities to implement projects
- Expand economic opportunities through the completion of community and cluster projects that **improve economic infrastructure and maximize the potential of Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MSME)**
- **Reward and strengthen successful, locally-based community institutions** that provide social services and address the needs of marginalized groups.

There are five components of the CDA program which CHF has integrated into all aspects of its program implementation. Starting with initial "Rapid Start" community mobilization, the five components are:

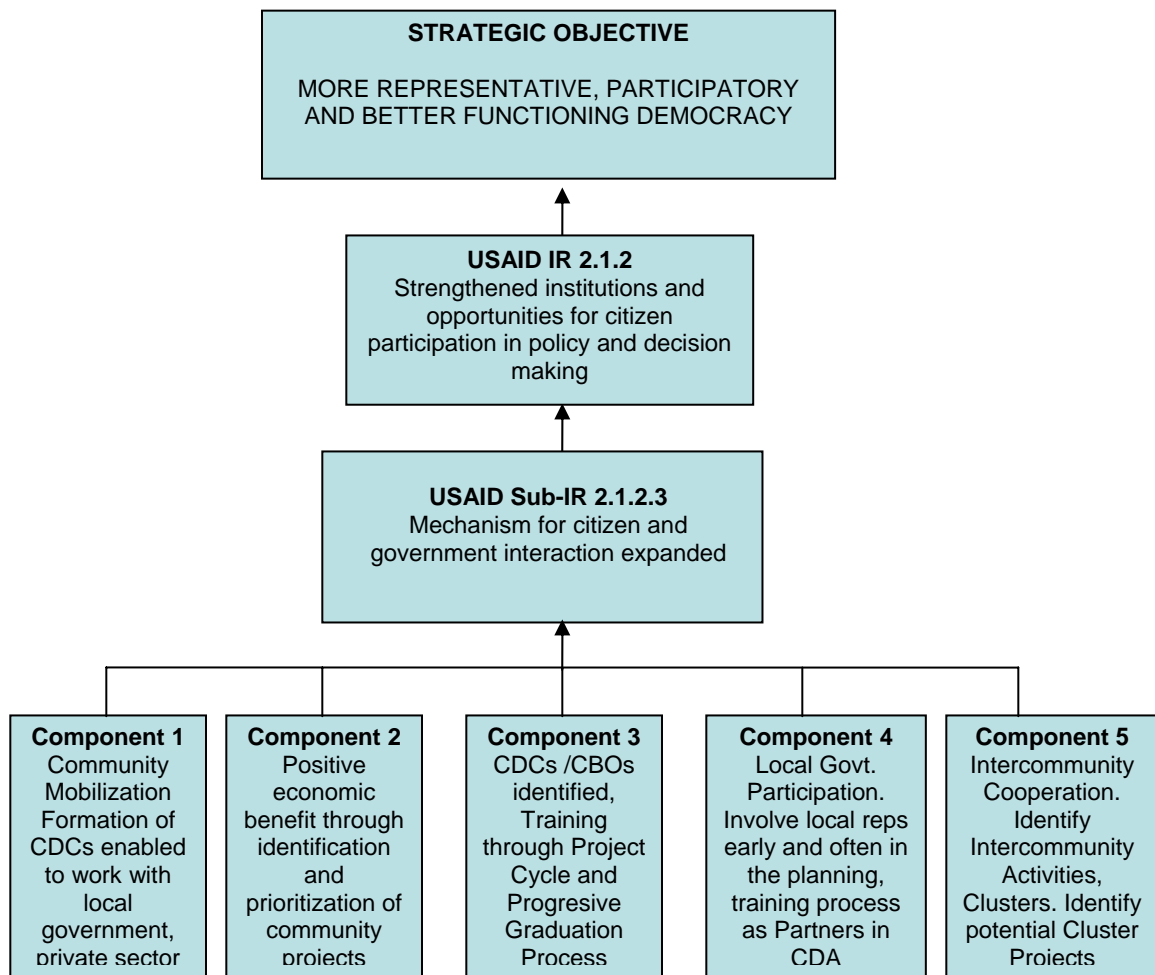
Component 1: Community Mobilization. Democratic formation of CDCs enabled represent the community, identify priorities and work with local government and the private sector.

Component 2: Project Prioritization. Identification and prioritization of high-priority, community identified projects with positive economic benefit to the community.

Component 3: Capacity Building of CDCs and CBOs. Training and Capacity Building through Project Cycle Management and Progressive Graduation Process.

Component 4: Local Government Participation. Involve local government representatives early and often in the economic planning, project identification and training process as Partners in CDA.

Component 5: Intercommunity Cooperation. Identify potential Intercommunity Activities and Clusters. Identify potential Cluster Projects with regional economic impact and where possible, within government's Regional Social and Economic Development Plan.



1 Community Mobilization

Three teams of community mobilization specialists conducted community-wide meetings, and established CDCs with the support and coordination of ExComm leadership in Lenkeran, Massali, Jalilabad, Khachma, Quba, Sheki, Gakh, and Zakatala. Local municipal leaders, ExComm representatives and more than 2000 community residents enthusiastically participated in the meetings which covered the following topics: CDA Program Overview, Goals and Objectives; the Community Development Council: Structure, Role, Responsibilities, Formation; Community Priority Projects, and Next Steps.

Throughout the “Rapid Start” process, CHF communicated to local government representatives about our program and our intentions to conduct preliminary meetings with residents before going into communities. In each of the 24 “Rapid Start” communities, the process of

establishing CDC's involved open invitations to the general public to attend a forum, where CHF staff presented the CDA program and the roles and responsibilities of the CDC. Additionally, the nomination and selection process of council members was conducted. CDCs are charged with identifying, prioritizing, participating in payment for, and implementation of community development projects. Additionally, they are responsible for election of project leadership groups and the organization of self-help community participation activities. The CDC structure is designed to ensure that it is a broad based group representing all segments of the community, including women and minorities. It will join with neighboring communities in economically related clusters, which will implement larger scale projects across traditional community and ethnic lines as the program progresses. Women comprise **39%** of overall CHF the CDC membership elected to date.

Not all communities responded to the CHF requirement of significant citizen participation in the preliminary meeting. In the town of Aligasimli, in the Rayon of Jalilabad, not enough citizens responded to the open invitation to participate in the community-wide meeting. Although CHF mobilization staff organized and advertised meetings in advance on four different occasions, efforts to attract participation in the organizing event did not succeed, and only a few people showed up to attend. Community leaders and local contacts stated that they were not interested in the program, and did not agree with woman serving on the CDC. Through close consultation with the ExCom representatives in Jaliabad, CHF visited 4 nearby communities and selected Uzuntepe to replace Aligasimli in the Rapid Start phase of the program. CHF is committed to continue a dialogue with Aligasimli and has encouraged the community to respond to the upcoming CDA Program expansion in March.

During this reporting period, CHF began planning and organizing a workshop that will bring together representatives from all 24 "Rapid Start" CDA communities, as well as several local municipal representatives and ExCom officials. We will hold the workshop in Baku, and will focus on participation in the CDA program, the CDA Community Network, and working with local government in the expansion of CDA.

Also during this period, planning began for CDA Program Expansion meetings in 11 Rayons throughout the CDA Areas of Responsibility. A schedule has been prepared to invite representatives from all communities in each of the 11 Rayons to attend an informational meeting about CDA and collect an Expression of Interest (EOI) Form. The EOI is the tool a community can use to respond to the CDA expansion and be considered for inclusion into the program. The meetings will be co-hosted by CHF and the Executive Committee Director of each Rayon.

2 Project Prioritization

During the initial organizational meetings, the 24 communities were asked to discuss and identify the highest priority issues facing the community, particularly issues that inhibit their economic development or prevent the creation of new economic opportunities. Then they were asked to identify projects that could address the issues identified. In many of the communities, the project types were similar and usually dealt with infrastructure improvement. While this was an initial exercise, it enabled the community at large, sometimes for the first time, to openly discuss problems, priorities and how to address them. In subsequent meetings, the CDC and community was then asked to identify a small scale, low-cost, highly visible priority project that would create a positive economic benefit to as many residents of the community as possible. This is the CDA Local Economic Growth (LEG) "Quick Impact" project.

The CDA program initiated activities in 24 communities throughout the three regions. The following communities have initiated CDA activities, including identifying and prioritizing potential Quick Impact Projects to be implemented during the next 60 days:

Southern Region	Northeast	Northwest
Urge Siyobly Virovul Guneshli Uzuntepe Babakhonli Chakhirly Tekle Gizilagaj	Sayad Yalama Mollaburhani Nugedi II Ashagi Atuchi Zardabi	Ashagi Goynuk Dashuz Lakit Tasmali Gakh Bash Magov Yukhan Chardakhlar Jayirli Yengivan

Each CDC consists of men and women, young and old, who are all volunteers nominated by community residents to represent them in the CDA program. During the meetings, participants identified priority projects that can be addressed through mobilization of the communities, including cash contributions and resources from the CDA program. Below is a breakdown of activities and Quick Impact Projects per CDA community.

Southern Region

Community-Wide Meetings were generally well attended with the exception of three villages, Aligassimli, Babakhanli and Chakhirly, where there were not enough residents to constitute a valid representation and meetings had to be rescheduled. In Babakhanli and Chakhirli, follow-up meetings were successful and CDCs were established. However, as stated previously, Aligassimli was replaced by Uzuntepe in the Rapid Start due to lack of participation.¹ CHF has received excellent cooperation from the ExCom offices in each of the Rayons, although representatives in Massali and Jalilabad requested additional meetings with the CHF Program Director to clarify CDA Program activities and the community meeting schedule. ExCom representatives are very supportive of the program, assisting CHF in distributing CDA program information and preparing each community for organizational meetings.

Rayon	CDA Community	Population	CDC formed Date	CDC Gender	Quick Impact Project	Total Est. Cost	Est. CHF Cost	Estimated Cost Share/ Contribution
Lenkeron	Urge	3000	12/01/05	8m,4f	Flood Mitigation	\$6,153	\$4,307	\$1,846
Lenkeron	Siyobly	560	11/30/05	7m, 5f	Electrical System Repair	\$7,000	\$4,900	\$2,100
Lenkeron	Virovul	3000	11/30/05	8m, 4f	Electrical System Rehabilitation	\$8,519	\$5,919	\$1,600
Jalilabad	Uzuntepe	6,250	12/12/05	11m,1f	Road Rehabilitation	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Jalilabad	Babakhanli	729	12/12/05	7m,1f	Electrical System	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$1,000

¹ Despite being replaced for inclusion as a CDA "Rapid Start" Community Aligassimli was informed that they would later have an opportunity to apply to enter the program through the EOI process

					Repair			
Jalilabad	Chakhirly	1800	12/12/05	8m, 2f	Potable Water Supply Repair	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$1,500
Jalilabad	Tekle	1500	12/02/05	6m,2f	Electric Transformer	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$1,500
Massali	Guneshli	6,700	11/29/2005		Road Rehabilitation	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$1,500
Massali	Gizilagaj	5350	02/12/05	5m, 5f	Road Rehabilitation,.	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$1,500

Nottheast Region

The first CDA CDC was formed in Sayad in Azerbaijan's Northeast region. Most meetings were well attended, although in some cases meetings had to be rescheduled to arrange for better community participation. CHF received excellent support from ExCom representatives and local municipal leaders. In the Northeast region, CHF is partnering with UMID, an experienced local NGO.

Rayon	CDA Community	Population	CDC formed Date	CDC Gender	Quick Impact Project	Total Est. Cost	Est. CHF Cost	Estimated Cost Share/ Contribution
Khachmas	Sayad	1300	11/22/05	8m, 4f	New Artesian Well	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Khachmas	Yalama	2000	12/02/05	6 m, 6f	Rehabilitation of Water Channels	\$5,816	\$3,601	\$1,215
Khachmas	Mollaburhanli	570	11/30/05	5 m, 5f	Power Supply Transformer for Artesian Well	\$7,107	\$2,165	\$2,382
Guba	Nugedi II	8000	12/02/05	6 m, 6f	Road Rehabilitation	\$5,524	\$2,830	\$2,391
Guba	Ashagi Atuch	1700	28/11/05	6 m, 6f	Irrigation Canal Repair	\$4,043	\$3,200	\$913
Guba	Zardabi	2500	12/02/05	6m, 6f	Strategic Road Rehabilitation	\$8,809	\$3,565	\$425

Northwest Region

Because of its distance from Baku and the rough mountainous terrain, the northwest region represents CHF's most challenging area from a logistical standpoint. The response from communities was enthusiastic and attendance was high. Each local and regional ExCom representative was helpful in assisting CHF to inform the citizens of meetings and in distributing program information.

Rayon	CDA Community	Population	CDC formed Date	CDC Gender	Quick Impact Project	Total Est. Cost	Est. CHF Cost	Estimated Cost Share/ Contribution
Sheki	Ashagi Goynuk	1764	11/30/05	7 m, 5 f	Irrigation Canal Repair	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Sheki	Dashuz		12/06/05	6 m, 6 f	Electrical Power Transformer Installation	\$7,500	\$5,600	\$1,900
Gakh	Lakit:	1500	11/29/05	7 m, 5 f	Water System Rehabilitation	\$6,500	\$4,550	\$1,950
Gakh	Tasmali	1500	12/01/05	7 m, 5 f	Electrical System Upgrade	\$6,950	\$5,150	\$1,800

Gakh	Gakh Bash	3000	12/05/05	6 m, 6 f	Electrical System Upgrade	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Zagat ela	Magov	2000	12/01/05	7 m, 3 f	Electrical Supply Stabilisation	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Zadat ela	Yukhari Chardaklar	2,200	12/02/05	6 m, 6 f	Construction of Supporting Line for Water Reservoir	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$1,500
Zagat ela	Yengian	1,270	12/05/05	6 m, 6 f	Water System Upgrade	\$7,000	\$4,900	\$2,100
Sheki	Jayirli:	2,850	12/03/05	7 m, 6 f	Strategic Road Rehabilitation	\$7,000	\$5,200	\$1,600

Most meetings were held in community clubs or primary schools, and were scheduled to last approximately 2 1/2 hours with time for initial orientation with the newly elected CDC. The nomination and election process resulted in the creation of the CDC, with an average size between 10 and 12. All CDCs will have a significant representation of women and youth, and in general reflect community demographics including any ethnic minorities.

3 Capacity Building of CDCs/CBOs

Capacity building of the CDCs began right at the beginning of Rapid Start mobilization, and will continue through the entire program. CHF provides facilitation, technical assistance, supervision, monitoring and evaluation for all projects implemented in CDA. CDA Rapid Start communities are currently engaged in the planning and implementation of the quick impact projects. These small scale, civil works projects are a means of stimulating community participation, while facilitating an increase of community dialogue regarding economic development, the environment and civic participation. During the process of project implementation, skills are transferred and development begins.

At this point in the evolution of Azerbaijan's civil society development, citizens are not comfortable with the principles of community participation, and must slowly develop and practice the skills of participatory planning and communication with local government. CHF's CDA program will work with communities to increase participation in local economic decision making, resulting in important social and economic infrastructure improvements. As communities, local government, and the business sector learn to work together to make decisions skills will develop. New challenges, in the form of CDA projects, will provide the platform for developing and practicing these skills.

The CHF CDA Community Graduation Process has been developed to include communities throughout the three regions in which the program is implemented. Stakeholder groups, CDCs, and citizens at large need training and guidance in how to more effectively work through the community "visioning" and planning process, including a better understanding of local government, market economies, communications, teamwork, creative problem solving, interpersonal skills and leadership. Community capacity building is a process through which CDA community members pass through a progressive series of training sessions and activities in order to learn how to achieve and further encourage sustainable development in their communities. This process is linked with the progression of the different CDA grant mechanisms available to each community.

CHF emphasizes that it is the PROCESS, and not the PROJECT, that leads to a more developed community; one which adopts the practices of a civil society. CHF, through CDA, is committed to:

Mobilizing citizens to engage in improving their quality of life; Promoting economic development in local communities; Building mutual trust between citizens and government.

CHF intends to build the capacity of each CDA community to choose and implement projects in an environmentally sound and sustainable way. Environmental compliance is a CHF priority. Each POC will have an appointed Environmental Officer. This officer is a permanent staff member who has successfully completed CHF's in training based on USAID's training seminars: "Introduction to USAID Environmental Procedures" and "Environmental Review, Screening, Mitigation and Monitoring," charged with guiding the POC in methodology of assessment, documentation, mitigation measures and overall quality control. It is CHF policy that all projects, except training seminars, have the following environmental compliance documentation:

- Detailed Environmental Checklist
- Mitigation Table
- Mitigation Matrix
- Best Management/Engineering Practices

4 Local Government Participation

CHF has established good communication and working relationships with local government representatives at the municipal and rayon levels. During the intensive Rapid Start of the CDA program, CHF mobilization teams received excellent cooperation, support and participation from local government representatives. In most communities, both the municipal leader and the local ExCom representative actively participated in organizing the community-wide meeting schedule, and distributing information about the program. They were especially instrumental in contacting citizens and encouraging them to participate. At least **58** local government representatives participated in the Rapid Start mobilization process, including attending the organizational meetings where CDCs were elected and priority projects were identified.

List of Local Government Representatives Participating in CDA Rapid Start Community Wide Meetings

Local Government Official	Position	Location
Oruj	Leader of Municipality	Lenkeran, Siyobly
Nadir	Local ExCom Representative	Lenkeran, Siyobly
Rahimov Ilkin	Deputy of ExCom	Lenkeran, Siyobly
Kerimov Igamet	Local ExCom Representative	Masally, Tekle
Samedaga	Leader of Municipality	Masally, Tekle
Aliashraf	Deputy of ExCom	Masally, Tekle
Abulhasan	Local ExCom Representative	Lenkeran, Veravul
Alisia	Leader of Municipality	Lenkeran, Veravul
Rahimov Ilkin	Deputy of ExCom	Lenkeran, Veravul
Mohtaman	Leader of Municipality	Lenkeran, Urge
Rahimov Ilkin	Deputy of ExCom	Lenkeran, Urge
Farhad	Local ExCom Representative	Masally, Gizilaghaj
Mina	Leader of Municipality	Masally, Gizilaghaj
Aliashraf	Deputy of ExCom	Masally, Gizilaghaj
Ziyafet	Leader of Municipality	Masally, Chakhyrly
Yashar	Municipality Member	Masally, Chakhyrly
Israil	Municipality Member	Masally, Chakhyrly
Mirza	Local ExCom Representative	Masally, Chakhyrly

Aliashraf	Deputy of ExCom	Masally, Chakhyrly
Avaz	Leader of Municipality	Jalilabad, Guneshli
Huseynov Aziz	Local ExCom Representative	Jalilabad, Guneshli
Alipasha	Leader of Municipality	Jalilabad, Babakhanli
Shirinali	Local ExCom Representative	Jalilabad, Babakhanli
Taleh	Chief of ExCom	Jalilabad region
Asif	Deputy of ExCom	Jalilabad region
Aloyev Aslan	Leader of Municipality	Jalilabad, Uzuntepe
Mirzoyev Habulla	Local ExCom Representative	Jalilabad, Uzuntepe
Ilham	Leader of Municipality	Jalilabad, Aligasimli
Shirinali	Local ExCom Representative	Jalilabad, Aligasimli
Gostev Azad	Leader of Municipality	Zagatala, Magov
Gardashov Mamedkamil	Local ExCom Representative	Zagatala, Magov
Gurbanov Hasan	Leader of Municipality	Zagatala, Yukhary Chardaglar
Davudov Mahammad	Local ExCom Representative	Zagatala, Yukhary Chardaglar
Mamedov Buchulla	Leader of Municipality	Zagatala, Yengiyan
Alimamedov Nail	Local ExCom Representative	Zagatala, Yengiyan
Ahmedov Movlud	Leader of Municipality	Sheki, Ashaghy Goynuk
Tamrazov Farrux	Leader of Municipality	Gakh, Tasmaly
Mirzoyev Nusrat	Local ExCom Representative	Gakh, Tasmaly
Binyat	Leader of Municipality	Sheki, Jayirli
Abbaszade Elchin	Local ExCom Representative	Sheki, Jayirli
Shirinov Rovshan	Leader of Municipality	Gakh, Lakit
Nuraddinov Calil	Local ExCom Representative	Gakh, Lakit
Manafov Fizuli	Leader of Municipality	Gakh, Gakh Bash
Otarashvili Tengiz	Local ExCom Representative	Gakh, Gakh Bash
Aslanov Nizami	Leader of Municipality	Sheki, Dashuz
Shachir	Deputy of Municipality	Sheki, Dashuz
Alisoltanov Islam	Leader of Municipality	Guba, Ashagi Ataj
Lachinov Khalil	Local ExCom Representative	Guba, Ashagi Ataj
Sardarov Vagif	Leader of Municipality	Khachmaz, Yalama
Zakiev Hikmet	Leader of Municipality	Khachmaz, Mollaburanli
Orujov Alikhan	Leader of Municipality	Guba Nugedi II
Amrullayev Nizameddin	Local ExCom Representative	Guba Nugedi II
Mekhman	Leader of Municipality	Guba, Zardabi
Fazil	Local ExCom Representative	Guba, Zardabi
Mammadov Balabey	Leader of Municipality	Khachmaz, Sayad

The CDA program will continue to strengthen the partnership between the CDA communities and the local government. As the communities begin to develop the CDA Local Community Economic Plans (LCEP), they will communicate with local government representatives to ensure that these plans do not duplicate plans formed by local government authorities. This will have the added benefit of fostering strong partnerships between communities and local government.

5 Intercommunity Cooperation

During this reporting period, there have been no intercommunity activities as efforts were focused on initial community mobilization and Quick Impact project identification. As CDCs increase their level of democratic participation, the CDA program will help to adopt an intercommunity approach, and establish working relations with neighboring communities to address larger scale problems. Organizing multiple communities will offer municipality, rayon and region-wide solutions to problems that are beyond an individual community's capacity. In year one, CHF International will maintain flexibility in our funding of interventions, which will allow for potential intercommunity activities and pilot intercommunity projects. These projects will require community leaders and government officials to work together in the concrete implementation of multi-community projects, and lead to both good will and a sustained commitment to work together.

Identification of Potential Intercommunity Activities

The CDA team will identify potential intercommunity projects based on initial meetings with communities and their prioritization of projects. As the program progresses, community outreach workers will develop the ability to see the commonalities between community needs and recommend potential mutually beneficial activities. Criteria for intercommunity activities will include; shared common physical, social and economic interests and natural geographic ties.

Intercommunity grants will bring together two, three or more communities to partner on a joint project, which mobilizes leaders, residents and resources from all participating communities. CDA expects that CDC leaders from the original mobilized communities will be adequately versed in the mobilization process to mentor nearby partner communities in the implementation of a joint initiative. This is an essential step in ensuring that lessons and resources from CDA are shared with other communities. CHF's design of the CDA program is intended to encourage natural opportunities for the formation of cluster and intercommunity activity.

While the groundwork for these intercommunity cluster projects can be laid in year 1, the project expects that it will dedicate a relatively limited amount of program time and resources to this component in that time frame.

6 Performance Indicators

ACTIVITY INDICATORS	Target Life of Project	Status	% objective complete
CDA Program Component 1: Community Mobilization			
Indicator 1: Number of communities informed/educated about the program.	1000	24	2%
Indicator 2: Number of communities in which CDC elections are held.	150	24	16%
Indicator 3: Number of communities Mobilized.	150	24	16%
Indicator 4: Number of process beneficiaries.	15000	2000	13%
Indicator 5: Number of citizens reached through program developed media.	50000	0	0%
Quarterly Newsletter	10000	0	0%
Television Public Service Announcements	25000	0	0%
Program Website	2500	0	0%
Press Releases	12500	0	0%

CDA Program Component 2: Project Prioritization			
Indicator 6: Share of community contribution to projects.	25%	0	0
Indicator 7: Number of Long-term Civic Enterprise Plans developed.	150	0	0%
Indicator 8: Number of community projects completed.	563	0	0%
Quick Impact Local Economic Growth (LEG)	150	0	0%
Midsized LEG	135	0	0%
Market Network and SME	121	0	0%
Social Investment	109	0	0%
Cluster Grants	48	0	0%
Indicator 9: Number of project beneficiaries.	40 000	0	0%
Male	24 000	0	0%
Female	16 000	0	0%

CDA Program Component 3: Capacity Building of CDCs/ CBOs			
Indicator 10: Number of CBOs supported through CDA grants.	250	0	0%
Indicator 11: Number of CDCs supported through CDA which have developed funded projects independent of CDA.	50	0	0%
Indicator 12: Number of citizens trained.	1500	0	
<i>Male</i>	1000	0	0%
<i>Female</i>	500	0	0%
<i>% Youth</i>	20%	0	0%
<i>Local Government Representatives</i>	600	0	0%

CDA Program Component 4: Local governance Participation			
Indicator 13: Number of local government employees participating in municipal capacity building training.	600	0	0%
Indicator 14: Number CDCs that communicate LCEP driven projects to government independent of CDA funds.	25	0	0%

CDA Program Component 5: Inter-Community Cooperation			
Indicator 15: Number of CDCs engaging in Intercommunity Cluster projects.	48	0	0%
Indicator 16: Number of CDC Members participating in intercommunity activities.	500	0	0%
<i>Regional Meetings</i>	300	0	0%
<i>Community Leader Exchanges</i>	100	0	0%
<i>Roundtable Discussions</i>	100	0	0%
Indicator 17: Number of intercommunity projects completed.	24	0	0%

7 Administration Issues / Other

Revised program objectives / Workplan

During this first quarter of 2006, CDA worked closely with the mission to refine the objectives of the program and to solidify the workplan. Important guidance was provided by the USAID mission related to the priorities of the project. Since program inception, the workplan has been submitted with a number of definitive alterations vis-à-vis the proposal. At the beginning of the program, USAID requested a doubling of the programmatic objectives, and an expansion of the program from 8 rayons to 14 Rayons. CHF prepared an estimate of a program of this expanded scope. This expanded scope program would have required approximately an additional \$2 million USD. We were informed by the mission to attempt to expand the scope of the program within the current CA budget.

CHF then presented an additional option that expands the scope of the program from 100 to 150 communities and from 8 Rayons to 11 Rayons served. During this same period CDA was informed that certain components included in the CA and in the proposal were not necessary to address in the implementation of the program; namely the jobs creation objectives and environmental projects. Additionally, the Local Governance component was de-emphasized.

With these program alterations in mind, the CDA team presented an option for the expanded scale of the program within the budget of the current CA. Conceptually this was accepted by the mission, and is represented in the submitted workplan. This revised program will however require a budget revision, which will be prepared for submission in January 2006.

Key Meetings

During the quarter CDA held several meetings with other organizations including USAID implementing partners and government officials. USAID implementing partners have been instrumental in providing assistance to operationalize CDA'. These IPs have provided human resources referrals, logistical support and provided invaluable background information for the CDA team.

In the past quarter, CDA, coordinated by USAID, met with Ali Huseynov in the President's office, as well as the Deputy Prime Minister, Ali Huseynov. These meetings were primarily introductory. The president's office did communicate that the program was underway in the rayons, and the reception as a result of this introduction was productive.

8 Success Stories

CDA program is committed to the ongoing communication of the success of program beneficiaries participating in the CDA program. In subsequent quarters this section of the quarterly report will offer success stories and photos from program activities.

Success Story: Rapid Start

In 24 communities, throughout the northeast, northwest and southern regions of Azerbaijan interested citizens and local government representatives gathered together in school halls, community centers and even outdoors to participate in the launching of USAID's Community Development Activity (CDA) in Azerbaijan program. The town meetings were organized by CHF International, USAID's implementing partner in the CDA program, with help from local community leaders, municipal and Executive Committee (ExCom) representatives as an open invitation to all community residents to participate in this exciting new development program in Azerbaijan.

In each of the 24 communities citizens nominated candidates to serve on a Community Development Council (CDC) and through a democratic process a CDC was elected. During this five year program the CDC and the community at large will work in partnership with their local governments and the private sector to identify economic opportunities, priority projects and create long term plans to reach their goals of social and economic development. Already each of the 24 communities have identified one quick-impact, local economic growth project which they will implement using their own funds and resources, CDA funds and critical support from their Municipality and even Rayon governments. Often local governments have committed financial support for these CDA projects which include: Agriculture Access Road Improvements; Electric Power System Upgrade; Irrigation System Repair and Water Supply System Upgrade.

During the successful “Rapid Start” of the CDA program more than 2,000 Azeri citizens and local government representatives participated in mobilizing their communities into action to begin the process of community development.